

System Configuration Team (SCT)
Reasonable & Prudent Measure #26
Meeting Notes
January 24, 1997

Greetings and Introductions.

This supplemental meeting of the System Configuration Team, held at the National Marine Fisheries Service's offices in Portland, Oregon, was co-chaired by Jim Ruff of the Northwest Power Planning Council staff and Bill Hevlin of NMFS. The agenda for the January 24 meeting and a list of attendees is attached as Enclosures A and B. The following is a summary (not a verbatim transcript) of items discussed at the meeting, together with actions taken on those items. Please note that some enclosures referenced may be too lengthy to routinely include with the meeting notes; copies of all enclosures referred to in the minutes are available upon request from Kathy Mott of NMFS at 503/230-5420.

I. FY'98 Mainstem Construction Work Plan Priorities.

Hevlin distributed Enclosure C, the most recent Columbia River Fish Mitigation Project SCT Measures Worksheet. We wanted to go through this worksheet item by item today, and register everyone's rankings of each project, he began. At the same time, we'd like to take some notes and begin putting together our reply to the IT's Action A request to SCT, to develop a list of significant issues in the FY'98 budget (the IT's request is spelled out in the next agenda item).

This spreadsheet is a little different from the one we were working from previously, said Witt Anderson of COE. In terms of the status of the budget, February 6 is the magic day when the President's budget is released. So we'll have that for the next meeting, and you can update us of February 12? asked Ruff. Correct, Anderson replied. As far as what's different about this spreadsheet, he said, one of the things I did was to put the states' lower priorities from the FY'97 spreadsheet back into their appropriate categories. Also, for FY'98, we bolded the things that changed from the spreadsheet contained in the Multi-Year Implementation Plan -- the bottom line is that we show

\$127 million in FY'98 expenditures in this spreadsheet, vs. \$111 million on the MYIP spreadsheet. There are one or two other minor changes, but those are the major ones.

One other thing, Anderson said -- regarding Footnote 4 on the last page of this document, we show the current total Columbia River Fish Mitigation program cost estimate to Congress as \$1.386 billion, including the BPA-funded portion. In 1996, OMB asked us to nail down the best estimate we could give them of what the total program costs will be. We did that in much the same way that Bonneville, NMFS and the Power Planning Council came up with an estimate for the MOA for capital investments. The \$1.386 billion includes the \$664 million shown in the spreadsheet for FY'96-'00+, plus \$216 million expended through 1995, plus about \$8 million in BPA-funded items, plus \$500 million noted here as unscheduled.

Which scenario does this represent? asked Hevlin. I think it's fair to say that it represents a combination of in-river and transportation -- there's no drawdown included in this, replied Phil Thor. However, we have developed spreadsheets showing the costs for a pure in-river option and a pure drawdown option; those are contained in the MYIP, he said. The tribes have their opportunity cost issue -- they feel that we're not spending available funding on the right things, thereby borrowing from the future, said Anderson. In their testimony to Congress, they may want to make that point, and that's why I want everyone to understand how this budget breaks down.

The discussion turned to the specifics of how the spreadsheet items should be prioritized. Ron Boyce of ODFW made the point that there may be items on the spreadsheet that are designated "no priority," meaning that they should not be funded even if funds are available within the President's budget; there will also be items that the SCT recommends should only be funded if the money is available. That's a legitimate issue, said Anderson. After some minutes of further discussion, it was agreed to rank each item as either high priority, low priority (fund only if funds are available) or no priority (do not fund under any circumstances)

The SCT spent several hours going through the spreadsheet item by item. The rankings of each SCT member for each item on the spreadsheet were as follows:

LOWER GRANITE DAM

Extended-Length Screens -- \$1,177,000

States, NPPC, NMFS -- high priority

CRITFC -- no priority, don't proceed, even if it means discontinuing the use of intake screens.

Juvenile Bypass Facility -- \$680,000

OR, WA and NPPC -- high priority, but implementation to be coordinated with '99 drawdown decision

NMFS -- high priority

CRITFC -- no priority, no spending on this issue until the 1999 decision is made

Picketed Lead Fences -- no cost in FY'98

Surface Bypass Program -- \$13,850,000

OR, ID, NMFS, NPPC -- high priority

WA -- low priority
CRITFC -- no priority

Fish Ladder Temperature Control -- \$450,000
CRITFC and NPPC -- high priority
States and NMFS -- low priority

LITTLE GOOSE DAM

Extended-Length Screens -- \$1,371,000
States, NPPC, NMFS -- high priority
CRITFC -- no priority, don't proceed, even if it means discontinuing the use of intake screens

Outfall Pipe -- no cost in FY'98

Picketed Lead Fences -- no cost in FY'98

Fish Ladder Temperature Control -- \$74,000
CRITFC and NPPC -- high priority
States and NMFS -- low priority

LOWER MONUMENTAL DAM

Barge Loading Facilities Modification -- \$12,000
low-cost completion activity in FY'98; ranked high

Gate Raise Modifications -- \$422,000
COE has not yet determined whether or not this will be required for operation of gates in raised position, or for better guidance with gates in raised position. High priority for all SCT members except CRITFC.

Gantry Crane -- \$500,000
Needed for gate raise modifications; same rankings.

Fish Ladder Temperature Control -- \$26,000
CRITFC and NPPC -- high priority
States and NMFS -- low priority

ICE HARBOR DAM

Juvenile Bypass Facility -- \$595,000
States, NMFS, NPPC -- high priority
CRITFC -- no priority

Flip Lips -- \$3,385,000
High priority for all parties

Surface Collection -- no cost in FY'98

Fish Ladder Temperature Control -- \$450,000
CRITFC and NPPC -- high priority
States and NMFS -- low priority

McNary DAM

Extended-Length Screens -- \$931,000
States, NMFS and NPPC -- high priority
CRITFC -- no priority

Maintenance Facility -- \$4,375,000
COE undecided on the scope of this activity
WA and OR -- high priority
ID, NMFS, NPPC -- low priority
CRITFC -- no priority

Juvenile Fish Facility Completion -- no cost in FY'98
WA suggested that there may be additional work needed in FY'98

Fish Ladder Exit Modifications -- \$330,000
High priority for all parties
CRITFC suggested that a backup screen is needed for the south shore auxiliary water supply; COE to follow up on this suggestion.

Fish Ladder Temperature Control -- no cost estimate
CRITFC and NPPC -- high priority
States and NMFS -- low priority

Gate Raise Modifications -- \$1,290,000
COE has not yet determined whether or not this will be required for operation of gates in raised position, or for better guidance with gates in raised position. High priority for all SCT members except CRITFC.

JOHN DAY DAM

Monitoring Facility -- \$2,100,000
WA, NMFS, NPPC -- high priority
OR, ID -- low priority
CRITFC -- no priority

Flip Lips -- \$5,700,000
High priority for all parties

Surface Bypass -- \$5,100,000
High priority for all parties; coordinate with drawdown studies

Spillway Crest Drawdown Study -- \$3,200,000
High priority for all parties
Include study of MOD drawdown with this item.
WA -- coordinate with Lower Snake drawdown evaluation

John Day Mitigation Relocation Evaluation (Ringold) -- \$280,000

High priority for all parties

Extended-Length Screen Testing -- no cost in FY'98

Extended Screen Implementation -- \$10,200,000

NMFS, NPPC -- high priority

OR, WA -- high priority, contingent on planning with surface collection and drawdown

CRITFC -- no priority

John Day to MOP --

To be combined with spillway crest drawdown studies

THE DALLES DAM

Emergency Auxiliary Water Supply -- \$120,000

High priority for all parties

CRITFC wants this moved forward to FY'97 if feasible, and if funding is available

Adult Channel Dewatering -- no cost in FY'98

Spillway and Sluiceway Survival Study -- \$1,500,000

States, NMFS, NPPC -- high priority

CRITFC -- no priority

Surface Bypass -- \$3,420,000

NMFS, NPPC, CRITFC -- high priority

OR -- high priority, but should also include hydraulic monitoring

Juvenile Bypass System -- no cost in FY'98, project deferred

BONNEVILLE DAM

Power Distribution -- \$90,000

High priority for all parties

PH2 DSM, Monitoring, Outfall Relocation -- \$21,720,000

States, NMFS and NPPC -- high priority

CRITFC -- no priority

PH1 DSM, Monitoring, Outfall Relocation -- \$2,570,000

States, NMFS and NPPC -- high priority

CRITFC -- no priority

Surface Bypass -- \$12,560,000

OR, ID, CRITFC -- high priority

NMFS, NPPC -- high priority for now

WA -- low priority

PH1 FGE -- \$3,790,000

States and NMFS question whether it is feasible to do FGE and surface collection testing at BONN 1 in the same season.

CRITFC -- no priority

Flat Plate Detector -- no cost in FY'98

SYSTEM

Gas Abatement Study -- \$10,550,000

High priority for all parties; where prototype will be tested remains an issue.

Turbine Passage Survival -- \$2,600,000

WA, OR, NPPC -- high priority

ID, NMFS -- low priority

CRITFC -- no priority

Acoustic Technology -- \$1,550,000

NPPC -- high priority

WA, OR -- low priority

ID, CRITFC -- no priority

Adult Passage Improvements for Lower Columbia -- \$1,100,000

High priority for all parties

Lower Snake Feasibility Study -- \$4,055,000

High priorities for all parties

Turbine Model Study -- \$400,000

ID, NMFS -- high priority

Auxiliary Water Supply in Fish Ladders at Lower Snake Projects -- no cost in FY'98

Lower Snake Fish Ladder Entrance Modifications -- no cost in FY'98

Fish Ladder Temperature Control Evaluations -- \$500,000

High priorities for all parties

Separator Evaluation -- \$2,000,000

States and NMFS -- high priority

CRITFC -- no priority

Barge Exit Modifications -- \$30,000

Completion in FY'98

Additional Barges -- \$1,500,000

States and CRITFC -- No priority for third new barge

NMFS and NPPC -- No priority for third new barge until 1999 decision is made

Dispersed Release -- \$370,000

NMFS, NPPC -- low priority

WA, OR -- no priority

Implementation Independent Review -- no cost in FY'98.

II. Response to the Implementation Team's Request of January 13, 1997.

On January 9, the Implementation Team submitted the following request to the SCT:

ACTIONS:

A. Prepare a list of anticipated issues in the FY'98 Corps budget, and a plan for development of a final recommendation. The issue list in the mainstem construction chapter of the Multi-Year Implementation Plan is a good starting point, but should be refined to focus on expected 1998 funding issues. Special attention should be given to ensure that issues of a policy nature, or that otherwise may need to be addressed by the IT, are included.

B. The issue of the scope and schedule for John Day drawdown studies, and their effect on a potential decision to proceed with extended STS installation at John Day Dam should be detailed for discussion at IT.

SCHEDULE: The issue list, draft plan and John Day drawdown information should be provided to John Palensky for distribution to IT no later than February 4.

In the course of the preceding agenda item, the SCT developed the following list of issues in response to the IT's request:

ISSUE 1: The completion, maintenance and improvements to intake screen bypass systems at the Lower Snake and McNary Dams:

The states, NMFS and NPPC support the completion, improvements to and maintenance of intake screen bypass systems at these dams, whereas CRITFC does not support any further spending on these activities. A list of these activities follows, with information on costs, schedules, and whether the activity in 1998 is for project completion or new construction. Estimated costs for these activities in FY'98 totals \$11,341,000.

? Lower Granite Extended-Length Screens -- \$1,177,000 in FY'98 to complete \$8,111,000 project [project completion]. ? Lower Granite Juvenile Bypass Facility -- \$680,000 in FY'98 and \$600,000 in FY'99 for design costs [new construction scheduled to begin in FY'00 at \$14,080,000].

? Little Goose Extended-Length Screens -- \$1,371,000 in FY'98 and \$170,000 in FY'99 to complete \$8,275,000 project [project completion].

? Lower Monumental Gate Raise Modifications -- \$422,000. Gantry crane (\$500,000) may be necessary for raised gates (better screen guidance). [new construction]

? Ice Harbor Juvenile Bypass Facility -- \$595,000 in FY'98 to complete this \$5,324,000 facility [project completion]

? McNary Extended-Length Screens -- \$931 in FY'98, plus \$10,000 in FY'99 to complete this \$20,504 project [project completion]

? McNary Screen Maintenance Facility -- \$4,375,000 needed for new construction in FY'98, to

be finished in FY'99 for a total cost of \$5,752,000 [new construction]
? McNary Gate Raise Modifications -- new construction to begin in FY'98 for \$1,290,000, completion in FY'99 for a total project cost of \$3,790,000 [new construction]

ISSUE 2: The Continuation of the Surface Bypass Program at Lower Granite Dam.

The states, NMFS and NPPC wish to hold funds available for continued surface bypass study in FY'98 at Lower Granite, whereas CRITFC does not support allocating any further funding to this program.

Lower Granite surface bypass program placeholder cost in FY'98 is \$13,850,000; this will come after spending \$14,030,000 in FY'96 and \$9,145,000 in FY'97. The estimated cost in FY'99 is \$13,530,000, for a total four-year cost of \$50,555,000.

ISSUE 3: Completion of the John Day Smolt Monitoring Facility.

Washington, NMFS and NPPC view the completion of the smolt monitoring facility as a high priority, whereas Oregon and Idaho view completion as a low priority, and CRITFC opposes any further spending on the facility.

The smolt monitoring facility will be completed with \$2,100,000 in FY'98. The total cost for the facility is estimated at \$18,925,000. [project completion]

ISSUE 4: John Day Dam Extended-Length Screen Implementation.

The states, NPPC and NMFS view extended screen implementation at John Day as high priority, contingent however on schedule for study and planning of drawdown. CRITFC does not support screen implementation.

Implementation of extended screens is now scheduled to begin in FY'98 with \$10,200,000, with costs in FY'99 and FY'00 at \$9,960,000 and \$3,120,000, respectively, for a total project cost of \$23,720,000. [new construction]

ISSUE 5: The Dalles Spillway and Sluiceway Survival Study.

The states, NPPC and NMFS view the spillway and sluiceway survival study at The Dalles as a high priority, while CRITFC does not support funding this study.

This survival study is scheduled to begin in FY'97 with a cost of \$1,000,000; costs for FY'98, FY'99 and FY'00 will be \$1,500,000, \$1,500,000 and \$1,550,000, respectively, for a four-year project cost of \$5,550,000. [new study in 1997]

ISSUE 6: Bonneville PH2 DSM, Monitoring and Outfall Relocation and PH 1 DSM, Monitoring and Outfall Relocation.

The states, NMFS and NPPC view the construction of PH2 DSM, monitoring and outfall relocation and the design of PH1 DSM, monitoring and outfall relocation in FY'98 as high priorities, while CRITFC does not support further funding of these activities. Estimated cost for these activities in FY'98 totals \$24,290,000.

Construction of the PH2 bypass improvements is scheduled to begin in 1998 at a cost of

\$21,720,000, followed with \$17,770,000 in FY'99 and \$2,020,000 for completion in FY'00. Total estimated cost for this project is \$46,680,000. Design costs were \$1,850,000 in 1996 and will be \$3,278,000 in 1997. [new construction]

Design of the PH1 bypass improvements will begin in 1997 for \$420,000, and will continue in FY'98 for \$2,570,000. Construction is scheduled to begin in FY'99 for \$6,950,000 and \$35,740,000 in FY'00, with completion in FY'01. Costs for the project through FY'00 are estimated at \$45,680,000. [new construction]

ISSUE 7: Turbine Passage Survival Study.

The states, NPPC and NMFS view the turbine passage survival study program as having some priority, while CRITFC does not support funding this program.

This study will evaluate operational issues (1% peak efficiency) and potential new turbine runner designs to improve the turbine environment. Estimated costs are a placeholder for now while COE completes a detailed plan of study for the long-term program. Costs are \$1,700,000 in FY'97, \$2,600,000 in FY'98, \$1,500,000 in FY'99 and \$1,000,000 in FY'00, for a total of \$6,900,000 over four years. [new study]

ISSUE 8: Separator Evaluation.

NMFS and the states view the separator evaluation as a high priority, while CRITFC does not support funding for this item.

This is for the design, construction and testing of an evaluation separator. Design began in FY'96 for \$115,000, followed in FY'97 with \$850,000. Construction and testing are scheduled for FY'98 at a cost of \$2,000,000. Total project cost is estimated at \$3,065,000. [new construction]

In summary, the estimated cost in FY'98 for activities listed in Issues 1 through 8 totals \$67,881,000.

III. Ice Harbor Flip-Lip Update.

Mike Mason reported that flip lips have now been installed on Ice Harbor spill bays 4, 5, 6 and 7. Is there any way to move up the completion date for bays 3 and 8? asked Rod Woodin. April 10 is really going to be pushing completion out to the limit of feasibility. The contractor is now reporting that flood control releases from Dworshak will force him to stop work on bays 3 and 8 beginning in a day or two, said Mason. At this point, it is unknown whether or not he will be able to finish work on bays 3 and 8. If he cannot, that will mean we'll have two spill bays we can't use at all at Ice Harbor, plus one generating unit out. Mason said it may be possible to cut loose the rebar and dowelling now in place on the partially-completed spill bays 3 and 8 before the migration season begins; he said he will provide a further update on this project at the February 12 SCT meeting. If we have flip-lips on six bays, my informants tell me we could raise the spill cap at Ice Harbor from 25 Kcfs to 37 Kcfs, said Thor. Four bays would give us a spill cap of 33 Kcfs.

In response to a question from Ruff, Mason said the independent Root Cause Analysis of the

problems with Ice Harbor Unit 5 will be completed by the end of February, including available options for fixing that unit. Even if a full rewind is required, the Corps has committed to having Unit 5 back in-service by April 1, 1998; it could be back on-line as soon as July 1997.

IV. Barge Construction Update.

Two new barges will be available for service beginning in the 1998 migration season, said the Corps' Mike Mason. We structured the contract to include an option to build a third barge in FY'99. In the course of the preceding discussion, it was agreed to defer the decision on whether or not to build a third new barge for the time being; as noted above, the states and CRITFC gave the third barge a "no" priority, while NMFS and NPPC said no priority for a third new barge until the 1999 decision is made. Mason explained that a contracting problem has arisen, which will result in the termination of the original barge construction contractor. The second-lowest bidder will assume the contract, and has assured COE that it can build the two new barges in time for the 1998 spring migration season.

V. PIT-Tag Monitoring Equipment Installation at John Day Dam.

This agenda item was covered in the course of the previous discussion; as mentioned above, Washington, NMFS and NPPC give the completion of this project in FY'98 a high priority; it is a low priority for Oregon and Idaho, while CRITFC opposes any further funding on the project. Given this range of views, the completion of the John Day smolt monitoring facility was included in the list of FY'98 issues sent to the IT for resolution.

VI. Other.

Ron Boyce inquired about the status of the John Day drawdown justification letter. The Corps has submitted the letter to Congress; copies are available upon request, Anderson replied. All indications are that the process will go quickly from here on out. We made it clear to Headquarters that all of the sovereigns in the region strongly endorse beginning the work this year, he added.

VII. Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items.

The next full SCT meeting was set for Wednesday, February 12 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at NMFS's Portland offices. SCT subcommittee meetings to discuss possible projects, including the FY'97 work plan, and to continue work on the Bonneville multi- year work plan, were set for Wednesday, February 5 and Tuesday, February 11, respectively.